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TITLE: HIV/AIDS and Vision Loss – Yet Another

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ISSUE: This workshop will educate participants to recognize and deal with HIV/AIDS and vision loss. Understanding the impact of vision changes and identify confusion/struggle for control are major issues facing this population.

SETTING: Services and training programs for this population are provided individually or in groups on an out-patient basis either on-site or in the individual's home/community throughout the greater New York area.

PROJECT: Participants will be familiarized with techniques for engaging with persons with vision loss, client empowerment and resource accessibility. This vision rehabilitation training program will be delivered as an experiential and didactic workshop drawing upon the participants' knowledge and the leader's expertise. We will examine and learn how to apply the tripod concept of independence, interdependence and dependence.

RESULTS: Individuals with HIV and vision loss involved in this program have regained self confidence, taken charge of their own medical/life situation and learned how to discuss and manage their HIV and vision loss with family/friends and at the worksite.

LESSONS LEARNED: It has been our experience that individuals involved in this vision rehabilitation program are better able to define their own problems and needs; capable of participating in goal setting and decision making to improve their lifestyles. Another key area identified was that when family/significant others have been encouraged to participate in the rehabilitation programs with this population, the individual is emotionally stronger and more successful in achieving his goals.

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